Discovery of old city in Orissa

21. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a city more than 2500 years old has been discovered in Orissa recently;

(b) if so, what is the expected name of that city, location thereof;

(c) how far this city is like to "Mohan-Jo-Daro" and "Harappa" civilization;

(d) whether Indian Civilization of today is on the pattern thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The recent excavation carried out at an early historic period site of Sisupalgarh by Deccan College, Pune suggests that its earliest date may go back to 2500 years ago. ASI had already excavated the site in 1948. Sisupalgarh, located about 4 km east of Bhubaneswar, is also identified as Tosali of Asokan (3rd century B.C.) edicts and Kalinganagara of Kharavela's (2nd century B.C.) inscription.

(c) Sisupalgarh (circa 4th century B.C. to 4th century A.D.) is not similar to Mohenjodaro of the Harappa Civilization (circa 2500-1900 B.C.) as both are widely separated by time, cultural materials and geography.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Cases of bank frauds

22. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports about an exceptional bank fraud of 4.9 billion euros in Paris;

(b) if so, Government's response for security against such fraudulent activities in the country's banking system;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of bank frauds reported upon like unauthorized withdrawal or transfer of funds, mostly from long dormant accounts, illegal fund activities etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken against such unlawful activities in the banking system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they are aware of a press report during the last week of January, 2008 that the Society General (SG), a French bank had incurred losses to the extent of US dollar 7.2 billion on account of the unauthorized activities of a rogue trader. RBI has already issued necessary prudential guidelines/instructions on Risk Management etc. for the guidance of the banks.

(c) RBI as a part of its supervisory responsibility collects data on frauds in public sector banks and financial institutions. RBI has reported that they have no information relating to number of bank frauds on account of unauthorized withdrawal or transfer of funds mostly from long dormant accounts/illegal fund activities, etc.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.